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ADD 1 CUBA, WASHINGTON (UPI-53)

STENNIS SAID THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME "ROTATION AND REPLACEMENT" AMONG THE SOVIET FORCES IN FIDEL CASTRO'S COMMUNIST SATELLITE, BUT HE SAID THE QUESTION REMAINS AS TO WHY THE KREMLIN IS MAINTAINING ITS "TREMENDOUS" FORCE THERE.

"THIS IDEA OF A LESSENING MILITARY THREAT," SAID STENNIS IN TALKING WITH NEWSMEN, "I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT AT ALL."

STENNIS MADE THE COMMENTS AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED THE "FIRST PAGE" OF ITS QUESTIONING OF MCCONE, ALTHOUGH, "DOUBTLESS, HE WILL BE BACK LATER." STENNIS SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION TO "MILITARY WITNESSES."

AMONG THE QUESTIONS NOT YET COVERED "EXHAUSTIVELY" BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, STENNIS SAID, IS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE RUSSIANS ARE OPERATING A SUBMARINE BASE IN CUBA.

STENNIS SAID MCCONE, WITHIN THE SPACE OF A FEW HOURS, GAVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE A "TREMENDOUSLY" IMPRESSIVE SET OF FACTS WHICH WOULD HAVE TAKEN WEEKS TO GATHER FROM OTHER WITNESSES.

STENNIS SAID NO FURTHER HEARINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED, FOR THE PRESENT, AND THAT HE COULD NOT NOW SAY WHAT WITNESSES WOULD FOLLOW MCCONE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE SENATE'S PROJECTED WEEK-LONG LINCOLN DAY RECESS PERIOD WOULD BE OCCUPIED BY "STAFF WORK" IN THE INQUIRY.

2/7--E1209PES

UPI-71

ADD 2 CUBA, WASHINGTON

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON, D-MO., AGREED IN A STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE SESSION THAT, THE LARGE SOVIET MILITARY COMPLEX IN CUBA "IS NOT LESSENING," AND ADDED: "ONE CAN ONLY ASK WHY."

"I BELIEVE MUCH OF THE ANSWER LIES IN THE AIMS AND AMBITIONS OF R. KHRUSHCHEV AND CASTRO IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA," SAID SYMINGTON.

"IT IS MY BELIEF ALSO THAT IF THIS MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP IS ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN CUBA, IT CAN ONLY RESULT IN FURTHER COMMUNIST PROBLEMS IN THIS HEMISPHERE," SAID SYMINGTON.

THAT JIBED WITH STENNIS' STATEMENT THAT IT IS "OBVIOUS" THAT THE SOVIET BASE IN CUBA WOULD BE USED AS A CENTER FOR "SUBVERSION" ELSEWHERE IN THE HEMISPHERE.

2/7--AM1228PES